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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

United States of America: draft resolution

Supporting recovery from substance use disorders

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing that substance use disorders are diseases of the brain requiring, like any other disease, evidence-based treatment, compassion for those afflicted with the condition, and governmental and community initiatives to promote recovery and facilitate reintegration,

Noting that, like those with other relapsing, chronic diseases, individuals in recovery from substance use disorders are at risk of relapse, particularly during treatment, as well as during the first five years of recovery,

Acknowledging that sustained recovery support helps prevent relapse, facilitates early re-entry into treatment when needed, and promotes long-term recovery outcomes and the health, well-being and safety of individuals, families, communities and States,

Recognizing that stigma, discrimination, shame, misunderstanding and fear of social, economic or legal repercussions dissuade many who need help from seeking it and lead others, who are in stable long-term recovery from a substance use disorder, to avoid public disclosure of their status as a person in recovery from addiction,

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Bearing in mind that acknowledging and celebrating recovery from addiction can help to dispel stigma and misunderstanding about the disease, thereby helping to reduce the adverse social, economic and public health consequences of illegal drug use and addiction,

Taking into account that organized recovery communities that include youth and young adults are emerging internationally, and that those communities are critical allies in engaging local communities, reducing drug use and promoting long-term recovery outcomes,

Aware that substance use disorders continue to be addressed in many laws, policies and practices primarily as a legal issue and only secondarily as a public health concern, and that it is important for countries to consider whether their laws, policies and practices are serving as obstacles to accessing health services, medical care and treatment, as well as recovery programmes and ultimate societal reintegration,

Noting that the formal governmental registration of those requesting health services for substance use disorders, even if done only to facilitate their access to care and treatment, risks discouraging them from coming forward to seek needed public health services, care and treatment,

Noting also that it is important to promote and support recovery programmes and the ultimate reintegration of individuals in recovery using evidence-based practices, including among individuals incarcerated or under drug-related criminal justice supervision,

Welcoming the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in raising awareness of substance use disorders as a public health concern,

1. *Encourages* Member States to develop informational and educational materials to support increased understanding of the disease of addiction and the importance of recovery and the reintegration of those suffering from substance use disorders;

2. *Recommends* that Member States include recovery and reintegration goals in their national drug control strategies;

3. *Urges* Member States to partner with provincial, regional or local governments, communities and non-governmental organizations to celebrate or otherwise publicly support those in recovery from addiction in order to reduce stigma and discrimination and to promote societal reintegration;

4. *Encourages* Member States to review and identify policies, practices and laws that can serve as barriers to reintegration and recovery, such as addiction registries or limitations on access to housing, employment, education, voting, licensure or certification within a trade or profession, or other social goods to which citizens are otherwise entitled;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to reform identified policies, practices and laws that are barriers to reintegration and recovery;

6. *Requests* Member States to facilitate exchanges on developing recovery-oriented systems of care, employing chronic care approaches such as recovery management, developing peer recovery support services and mobilizing those in

recovery to address substance use disorders in the community and support and sustain recovery programmes in schools, universities, workplaces, communities and other domains;

7. *Also requests* Member States to collect data related to recovery-oriented systems of care, recovery communities and recovery activities and programmes, taking into account privacy rights regarding all personal health-related information, to enhance the understanding of and evidence base for recovery and recovery-oriented evidence-based programmes;

8. *Urges* Member States, multilateral institutions and others to share information on national and international experiences and best practices related to recovery programmes, recovery activities and the development of recovery communities, and to make such information available to Member States;

9. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to include information about recovery in the annual *World Drug Report*;

10. *Requests* Member States to report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution, including under a possible new agenda item of the Commission;

11. *Invites* Member States to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.